

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 23, 2008. Newly-added Claims 38 to 55 are pending in the application, of which Claims 38 to 46 and 55 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Examiner withdrew Claims 28 to 37 from consideration as they were directed to a non-elected invention pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03. The Examiner took this action because, in the Examiner's view, Claims 28 to 37 are directed to an invention different from that in canceled Claims 1 to 27.

Without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's actions, Claims 28 to 37 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. In addition, previous Claims 1 to 5, 8 to 10, 12 to 20 and 25 have been reintroduced as new Claims 38 to 55, albeit with additional features added. If, after reviewing Claims 38 to 55, the Examiner does not agree that Claims 38 to 55 are directed to same invention as previously examined Claims 1 to 27, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's representative as indicated below before taking further action in this case.

Claims 1 to 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0085223 (Bigi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, Claim 38 is directed to an image input apparatus which can perform data communication with an image output apparatus. The image input apparatus includes designation means for designating an image editing process to an original; reading means for reading image data from the original; storage means for storing the

image data of the original read by the reading means; original direction detection means for detecting a direction of the original in regard to the image data; first transmission means for transmitting a detection result by the original direction detection means and the image editing process designation by the designation means to the image output apparatus; and second transmission means for reading the image data stored in the storage means and transmitting the read image data to the image output apparatus.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art, namely AAPA and Bigi, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the image input apparatus of Claim 38. In particular, the cited prior art, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least an image input apparatus which can perform data communication with an image output apparatus wherein the image input apparatus detects a direction of an original in regard to the image data and transmits a detection result and the image data to an image editing process to the image output apparatus.

In contrast to the present invention, AAPA merely discloses two functions that may be achieved using communicating image processing apparatuses. In particular, one is a “remote copy” function for printing scanned images by a single printer on a network. Another disclosed function, a “cascade copy” function, is for printing scanned images by a plurality of printers on a network. AAPA further discloses that these functions may be provided in a printer for use by a user.

In addition, Bigi merely discloses a printer driver which is applied to provide a printing direction of document data input by a host computer to a printer. As such, even if AAPA were modified in view of Bigi as suggested by the Examiner, such a combination would yield some additional functionality but would not provide that which is missing from AAPA. In

particular, such a combination, which Applicant does not concede is permissible, would provide a printer or a host computer with a printer driver for the previously described remote or cascade copy, or a host computer that transmits document data to a printer together with an instruction as to the printing direction designated via a printer driver, or a printer being able to print the document data of Bigi using the printer driver of Bigi.

However, neither AAPA nor Bigi disclose or suggest an image input apparatus which can perform data communication with an image output apparatus wherein the image input apparatus detects a direction of an original in regard to the image data and transmits a detection result and the image data to an image editing process to the image output apparatus as featured in Claim 38. Therefore, it cannot be said that combining AAPA with Bigi would disclose or suggest these features.

In light of these deficiencies of the prior art, Applicant submits that Claim 38 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 41 and 43 are directed to a method and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the image input apparatus of Claim 38. Claim 39 is directed to an image output apparatus for use with the image input apparatus of Claim 38. Claims 42 and 44 are directed to a method and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the image output apparatus of Claim 39. Claims 40, 45 and 46 are directed to systems that utilize the image input apparatus of Claim 38. Claim 55 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium substantially in accordance with the system of Claim 45. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 39 to 46 and 55 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

The Director is authorized to charge the requisite \$130 one-month extension fee to Deposit Account No. 50-3939. The Director is further authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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